



Otis Nixon



John Loy Rucker

Braves Stars Otis Nixon and John Rucker to Address Players Before Lawson State Tourney

Two former standouts for the Atlanta Braves Baseball team, Otis Nixon and John Loy Rucker, will address members of the Lawson State, Motlow State Junior College (Tennessee) and the University of South Carolina Sumter baseball teams on Friday, February 6 at 9:00 a.m. in the Gym (Shores Building, Birmingham, West Building). The program is open to the public.

Otis Nixon, a former Major League Baseball player, was a center fielder and switch-hitter who played from 1983 to 1999. He has stolen the most bases for a player that has never appeared in an MLB All-Star game since the All-Star Game was inaugurated in 1933. Otis began playing for the Atlanta Braves after leaving the Montreal Expos and in his first year assisted the Braves in gaining the World Services. In June 1991, he stole six bases, the MLB record that he shares with several other players. In his three years as a Brave, Nixon averaged .286 with 377 hits and 160 stolen bases. Nixon returned to the Braves in 1999, making notable plays, including a game-changer for the Braves during the National League Championship Series. Nixon has faced challenges and dark periods in life and now inspires others through his messages as a life coach.

John Rucker, was drafted by the Braves in the 18th round of the 1993 draft. He made the Major League in 1998 and enjoyed his best year for the Braves, saving 38 games with a 2.49 ERA. He pitched two more solid years with the Braves as closer until being traded in 2001 to the Cleveland Indians. He finished his career with the Indians, the Texas Rangers and the Tampa Rays.

(Shhh!, it's a surprise, but there might be something special for those in attendance.)

The program will precede the Lawson State Community College Tourney that begins at 12:00 Noon with Motlow State vs Lawson State, and Motlow State vs. USC Sumter at 2:30 p.m.

Nixon, Rucker and fellow Braves star Brian Jordan will be featured at the 14th Annual American Baseball Foundation Lead Off Dinner to be held at The Club on February 5.